GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
POWERS TO PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a)whether all the States in the country have not delegated power to Panchayati Raj Institutions in their Statesfor governance;

(b) if so,the details thereof alongwith the names of such States and the reasons therefor

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Panchayati Raj Act in this regard

(d) if so,the details thereof;and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 176, DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.12.2008.

(a) &(b): All States to which the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution apply have their respective Panchayati Raj legislation.

The Panchayati Raj legislation of the States provide for devolution of powers and responsibility upon the Panchayats at various levels.However,the extent of actual devolution varies among the States.

(c)&(d): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has no proposal to move amendments to the Constitutional provisions relating to Panchayati Raj.The State Legislatures are competent to amend their respective Panchayati Raj Act and they do so from time to time.

(e): As Panchayati Raj is a State subject, the Ministry has worked closely with States to develop and operationalize a national consensus on the measures to be taken to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions(PRIs).

The Ministry is also continuously and closely engaging with the Central Ministers administering the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to ensure that definite roles are assigned to Panchayats at all levels in planning and implementing these schemes.Participative plans prepared from the grass roots level upwards by the Panchayats and the Municipalities constitute the sine qua non of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).The Ministry also operates a modest Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme,which the Ministry hopes to widen and deepen.